

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, UR, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-SOVIET TOURISM COOPERATION

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD

REF: A) MOSCOW 14446; B) MOSCOW A-397

1. AS POSTSCRIPT TO REPORTING MESSAGES (REFTS) ON VISIT OF U.S. TOURISM DELEGATION, COMMOFF UNDERSTANDS THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN AMEXCO CHAIRMAN CLARK AND INTOURIST PRESIDENT BOYCHENKO DURING MEETING OF US-USSR TRADE/ECONOMIC COUNCIL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE ESSENTIALLY REPLAY OF DISCUSSIONS DURING VISIT OF TOURISM DELGATION. CLARK STRESSED INTEREST OF U.S. HOTEL COMPANIES IN MANAGEMENT ROLE IN ANY HOTELS THEY MIGHT CONSTRUCT IN USSR WHILE BOYCHENKO STRESSED SOVIET INTEREST IN COOPERATION IN HOTEL CONSTRUCTION AND CLAIMED THAT MANAGEMENT ROLE FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES WAS OPPOSED TO SOVIET LAWS. HOWEVER, BOYCHENKO FINALLY ADMITTED THAT COMROMISE SOLUTION COULD AND SHOULD BE FOUND AND HE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF HAVING RESIDENT AMERICAN "ASSISTANT MANAGER" OF EACH HOTEL CONSTRUCTED AS POSSIBILITY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN THIS, RELATIVELY MODEST, STEP INVOLVED MAJOR POLITICAL DECISION ON SOVIET SIDE WHICH WAS FAR BEYOND COMPETENCE OF INTOURIST.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RAPID MOVEMENT ON SOVIET SIDE IN
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ARRIVING AT COMPROMISE SOLUTION IS UNLIKELY, CONTINUED PRESSURE

FROM U.S. TOURISM INDUSTRY REPS WILL SERVE TO KEEP PROCESS
MOVING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WORKING GROUP ON TOURISM WAS FORMED
DURING MEETING OF TRADE/ECONOMIC COUNCIL, AS HAD BEEN AGREED
DURING VISIT OF U.S. TOURISM DELEGATION. WHILE THIS BODY WILL
PRESUMABLY SERVE AS FOCAL POINT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS,
EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR U.S. SIDE TO SEEK
INCLUSION OF COOPERATION IN TOURISM AREA ON AGENDA OF NEXT
MEETING OF US-SOVIET JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION, ASSUMING THAT
MAJOR COOPERATIVE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE BLOCKED BY SOVIET
POSITION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUE AT TIME OF JOINT COMMISSION'S
NEXT MEETING.
STOESSEL

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